

REMARKS

The preceding amendments and following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action issued on April 7, 2008. Claims 1-22 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found in the original claims. No new matter has been added. Currently, claims 1-23 are pending in this application.

An objection was made to claim 14 on the ground that claim 14 recited a checking apparatus whereas claim 13, from which claim 14 depends, recites a checking device. Applicant has amended claim 14 to recite a checking device. Applicant submits that the objection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant acknowledges that the claims were translated from German. Accordingly, Applicant has made a variety of amendments to the form of the claims. Applicant submits that the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,101,266 to Laskowski et al. ("Laskowski"). Applicant respectfully traverses because Laskowski does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention.

Independent claim 1, from which claims 2-12 and 23 depend, recites a method for checking a document of value. The method includes a step of illuminating the document of value with an intensity (I_b) in at least a partial area and at one or more measuring places the intensity (I_r) of the light transmitted through the partial area of the document of value. Further, the method includes a step of capturing the intensity (I_r) of

the light reflected, or remitted, by the partial area of the document of value. For each measuring place, the intensities of the transmitted and the reflected light are summed up to obtain a sum intensity value. The sum intensity value is compared to a predetermined standard value.

Independent claim 13, from which claims 14-22 depend, recites a checking device for checking documents of value. The checking device comprises an illumination system configured to illuminate a document of value at least in a partial area with an intensity (IB). The checking device also comprises a detector system, configured to capture from one or more measuring places the light transmitted through the document of value and the light reflected, or remitted, by the document of value; wherein the illumination system and the detector system are designed to separately capture the intensity (I_T , I_R) of the transmitted light and of the reflected light, and an evaluation unit is provided, in which the intensities of the transmitted and reflected light are summed up for each measuring place, so that for each measuring place precisely one sum intensity value is obtained that is compares to predetermined standard value.

Laskowski discloses a method for checking value documents according to which intensities of transmitted and reflected light are captured. Laskowski, abstract. Laskowski also discloses, in a general way, that values representing transmitted and reflected light may be summed or averaged. Laskowski, col. 17, line 26. In respect to the sole embodiment of Laskowski, which discloses a sum calculation of reflection and transmission values ("alternative embodiment", col. 17, lines 25 to 29), a skilled artisan would in fact obtain the motivation to combine reflection and transmission values of a combination of test spots. Such a teaching, however, is a clear contrast to the method

according to the present invention, according to which the sum of reflection and transmission intensities is calculated for each measurement place compared to a standard value.

Thus, Laskowski not only fails to disclose these features but actually teaches away from the elements that it does not disclose in claims 1-12 and 23. Laskowski would at best motivate the skilled artisan to determine a combination of reflection and transmission values obtained from a combination of test spots and analyse these combined integral values. In contrast to the assertion made in the Office Action, such integral values naturally do not any more contain local information on a soiling of the banknote at individual (distinct) measuring places. It moreover remains open from Laskowski, in which cases and for what purpose values should be summed up or averaged. It would therefore remain completely obscure for a skilled person considering the teaching of Laskowski why reflection and transmission values should be summed up and what conclusion could be drawn from such sum values.

Claim 1 requires that the sum intensity value obtained for each measuring place is individually compared to a predetermined standard value (and not to a combined value as disclosed in Laskowski). Such a method is not disclosed by Laskowski.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Laskowski fails to disclose each and every element of claims 1-12 and 23, and requests that the rejection of claims 1-12 and 23 be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 13, from which claims 14-22 depend, claim 13 was rejected on the same basis as claim 1, i.e., claim 13 claims a system corresponding to the method of claim 1. Applicant submits that Laskowski does not disclose each and every

element of claim 13 for at least the reasons above. Accordingly, Applicant requests that claims 13-22 be allowed.

Thus, the Applicant submits that the cited prior art fails to disclose each and every element of claims 1-23. Accordingly, the Applicant requests that the rejection to claims 1-23 be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that all outstanding rejections and objections have been overcome, and the instant application is in condition for allowance. Thus, The Applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the instant application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

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